

Edward Hathaway, ME/VT/CT Superfund Section
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Mail Code:07-1
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Email: Hathaway.ed@epa.gov

Re: Pike Hill Copper Mine Site, Corinth, Vermont

August 31, 2022

Dear Mr. Hathaway,

The following are our comments regarding the proposed abandoned mine site clean-up plan.

The old mine site itself is barren and devoid of vegetation in numerous places. That and the old foundations, the reservoir, metal bits and mine openings have made the site interesting to walk over and to investigate. Many have enjoyed studying the old photos and maps of the site. Apart from the fall of one person into an open shaft a year ago, we have never heard of a person becoming ill or of any animals being found dead on or near the site. The site itself is an eye sore in this community, but its harmful impact is not very evident. Consequently, the favorable impact of the proposed EPA clean up is not seen as large and sorely needed. What we do see as really important is the damage the conduct of the proposed clean-up will have on us, the people who live here. We who live along Richardson Road and near the mine site will be harmed physically, mentally and financially. We have to be part of the equation, not brushed off as facing a "rough" time for 2, 3 or more years.

The enormous increase in large dump truck traffic on Richardson Road is the issue of grave importance. The weight of the trucks empty, the weight of them loaded, their speed and their estimated 10,000 trips to and from the mine site will increase the volume of fugitive dust dramatically. Have you estimated what that increase in the volume and coverage of fugitive dust along Richardson Road will be? Your traffic, dump trucks and other vehicles will also delay and disrupt local traffic, raise dust that will get into our lungs, yards and homes, vibrate our homes especially those right next to the road, disturb our households with noise, significantly increase the danger to life and property including our animals and generally be a major, long-term annoyance that keeps everyone mentally on edge.

We believe you must recognize the damage you will do to the Richardson Road community if you proceed with your current plan. The damage to our persons and properties is unacceptable. You can devise a plan that brings the traffic and other negative construction aspects down to an acceptable level. You have given great and important consideration to the bats, but inadequate consideration to the people who have to live through and endure your proposed construction activities. Here are some alternatives you might consider:

- Not undertaking activities in places on or off the mine site that make insignificant overall improvement to either the site itself or the downstream areas.

- Leaving and treating as much material as possible in its current location.
- Using more treatment additives on and off site to improve downstream water quality.
- Using as much on-site material as possible, including soil and crushed rock (if suitable rock is available on site).
- Reducing the volume of material that is placed in cells that require importing topsoil for growth of grass and protection of their plastic caps.

You should not consider widening, paving or even graveling Richardson Road as an acceptable response to offsetting the negative impacts from your proposed construction activities. The dust from a locally produced road gravel called "Staymat" is terrible, and ruination of this rural landscape would be equally terrible.

Finally, we believe the one or more large, grass covered waste cells proposed to be constructed next to and standing topographically above Richardson Road will be visual degradation. You should consider building such cells where the mine waste is now located. Bringing vegetative growth back to those barren areas, something apparently not discussed in your plans, would be a visual improvement.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns at the public hearing and to submit these written comments for your consideration.

Carrie A. Kessler

W. Bradford Caswell



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